

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01

H-02 /063 W

----- 056998

O R 021820Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2016

DOD

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 5399

DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN'S WORRIES ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF  
U.S. ARMS SUPPLY

SUMMARY: DURING CALL AUGUST 2 BY CHARGE AND ARMY CHIEF OF  
STAFF GENERAL WEYAND, MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT THE MILI-  
TARY SUPPLY PROBLEMS JORDAN ("AN AMERICAN BASE") AND TURKEY  
("AN AMERICAN COLONY") WERE HAVING MADE HIM WONDER IF THE USG  
COULD ALWAYS BE RELIED ON TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE MILITARY  
DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF SAUDI ARABIA. A STABLE, STRONG JORDAN  
HE SAID WAS VITAL TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE NOTED THAT U.S. ALLIES  
WERE EMPHASIZING THEIR WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY RAPIDLY TO  
PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. SULTAN SAID THAT  
THE SAG, ONE OF OLDEST AND BEST FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ONE WHICH PAID CASH FOR ALL ITS REQUIRE-  
MENTS DESERVED HIGHLY PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. GENERAL  
WEYAND AFFIRMED A PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO ASSIST USG  
IN CONTINUING TO GIVE HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE TO THE SAG'S  
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MILITARY DEVELOPMENT; HE KNEW PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER HIGH

ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS WERE WORKING VIGOROUSLY FOR PROGRESS ON ARMS SUPPLY TO JORDAN AND TURKEY. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PRINCE FAHD IS STANDING BY PRIMACY OF A US ARMS RELATIONSHIP, BUT THAT PRESSURE WITHIN SAG TO DIVERSIFY MILITARY PURCHASES IS GROWING STRONGER. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WEYAND CALLED ON MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN 1200 HOURS AUGUST 2. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY CHUSMTM GENERAL AHMANN, CHIEF OF ENGINEER DETACHMENT COLONEL GRAY, USMTM CAPTAIN DAHER (INTERPRETER) AND OTHERS. GEN. WEYAND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE COOPERATION AND THE HOSPITALITY THAT HAD SO FULLY BEEN EXTENDED TO HIM DURING HIS FIRST VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BY ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HIS VISIT ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY BRIEF, HAD GIVEN HIM A BETTER VIEW OF SAUDI ARABIA'S DEFENSIVE NEEDS; IN LINE WITH THE VISITS THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO THE KINGDOM BY OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, HE BELIEVED THAT HIS OWN VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL IN MAINTAINING THE PROGRESS AND MOMENTUM OF THE MINISTRY'S IMPORTANT PROJECTS OF MILITARY DEVELOPMENT.

2. SULTAN ANSWERED THAT HE HAD HEARD SIMILAR POINTS OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY OTHER HIGH RANKING U.S. OFFICIALS; HE APPRECIATED THEIR SINCERITY. AT THE SAME TIME HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF MODA'S PLANS WAS ESSENTIAL IN THE NEAR TERM, AND THAT ASSURED SECURITY OF U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY WAS EQUALLY ESSENTIAL IN THE LONG RUN. AS FOR MODA'S SHORT TERM NEEDS, HE SAID AMBASSADOR AKINS AND THE CHARGE WERE AWARE OF HIS VIEWS. HE AND PRINCE FAHD HAD MADE THEM CLEAR TO THE AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 15, AND IT COULD BE SAID THAT SINCE THEN THERE HAD BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE U.S. POSTURE TOWARD MODA'S ARMS REQUESTS. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS A BITTER

SPECTACLE FOR HIS OFFICERS AND MEN TO SEE ISRAEL EQUIPPED BY AIRLIFT WITH THE LATEST U.S. ARMS--SOMETIMES TAKEN FROM THE HANDS OF AMERICAN UNITS--WHILE SAUDI ARABIA HAD TO WAIT IN LINE. ISRAEL WAS RECEIVING THESE ARMS FOR FREE, WHEREAS  
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SAUDI ARABIA WAS NOT ONLY AN OLD AND TRUSTED FRIEND, BUT COULD PAY CASH. THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND THE KINGDOM'S CASH POTENTIAL, SHOULD ENTITLE THE SAG TO EVEN BETTER TREATMENT THAN IT WAS RECEIVING. SULTAN SAID HE GREATLY VALUED AMERICAN EXPERTISE--IT WAS THE BEST IN THE WORLD-- BUT HE WAS REPEATEDLY BEING MADE AWARE BY AMERICA'S ALLIES OF THEIR OWN ABILITY AND DESIRE TO PROVIDE THE KINGDOM WITH THE BEST MILITARY TECHNOLOGY.

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01

H-02 /063 W

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O R 021820Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2017

DOD WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 5399

DOD FOR ISA

3. CHARGE SAID THAT THE AERIAL RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL TO WHICH HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS REFERRED DATED BACK TO EVENTS OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND WAS LONG SINCE OVER. THE SAG WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT AS PART OF THE USG'S REEVALUATION OF ITS POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST, NO FURTHER ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CONCLUDED. THIS ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION WAS REGARDED WITH DISFAVOR BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT OUR PROGRAMS WITH A MOST IMPORTANT, FRIENDLY STATE SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA COULD FRUITFULLY CONTINUE. IT WAS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT GENERAL WEYAND HAD COME TO ARABIA TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND INFORMATION ABOUT THE KINGDOM'S MILITARY DEVELOPMENT, AND TO BENEFIT FROM HRH'S OWN VIEWS.

4. SULTAN SAID THAT THE WAY WERE HANDLING ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS RIGHT NOW WAS NOT TOO BAD, BUT THAT OUR TREATMENT OF JORDAN AND TURKEY MADE HIM WORRY ABOUT HOW RELIABLE AN ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USG COULD BE OVER THE LONG RUN. HOW COULD THE USG TREAT JORDAN--AN AMERICAN BASE--OR TURKEY--

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AN AMERICAN COLONY--AS WE WERE DOING? SULTAN SAID THAT THE SAG WAS DIRECTLY AND VITALLY CONCERNED WITH JORDAN'S REQUEST FOR AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. THE KINGDOM HAD LOST HALF ITS TERRITORY IN THE 1967 WAR, AND NO REASONABLE CASE COULD BE MADE FOR DENYING IT A FULLY EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE.

A STRONG AND STABLE JORDAN WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO SAUDI ARABIA, AND SULTAN WAS AFRAID THAT IF THE JORDAN ARAB ARMY'S NEEDS WERE NOT MET, THE POSITION OF THE KING MIGHT BE WEAKENED, AND THAT JORDAN PERHAPS WOULD BE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW LESS RATIONAL AND MODERATE POLICIES.

5. AS FOR TURKEY, SULTAN SAID UP TO NOW HE HAD NOT REALIZED THE FULL STRENGTH OF THE ZIONIST (SIC) LOBBY. TURKEY WAS NOT SIMPLY A FRIEND OF THE U.S., BUT A NATO ALLY AND HAD PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH 27 BASES. IT PROTECTED--FOR THE WESTERN ALLIANCE--BOTH SIDES OF THE DARDANELLES. IF ISRAEL COULD VETO A LITTLE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, WHAT COULD SAUDI ARABIA EXPECT IF ITS OWN MILITARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WERE TO COME UNDER DELIBERATE, DIRECT ZIONIST ATTACK(S).

6. GENERAL WEYAND REPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND DOD UNDERSECRETARY CLEMENTS ALL ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO A RATIONAL EFFECTIVE MODERNIZATION OF SAUDI ARABIA'S ARMED FORCES. HE HAD PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE ALSO THAT PRESIDENT FORD STRONGLY SUPPORTED LIFTING THE BAN ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. IT WAS AS A RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS THAT THE SENATE HAD ON JULY 31 AGAIN VOTED TO REINSTATE OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: GEN. WEYAND HOPED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD FOLLOW SUIT WHEN IT RECONVENED AFTER ITS AUGUST RECESS. THE GENERAL NOTED ALSO THE ADMINISTRATION'S EXPRESSED RESOLVE TO CONTINUE TO MEET JORDAN'S DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS, AND HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED. SULTAN HOPED SO TOO.

7. IN LATER MEETINGS WITH DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD PRINCE BADER BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AND VICE MINDEF PRINCE TURKI BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, THE SAG'S CONCERN ABOUT THE TROUBLES JORDAN AND TURKEY WERE HAVING WITH THE CONGRESS WERE AGAIN RAISED, BUT MORE BRIEFLY.

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COMMENT: WHAT

HAPPENS TO JORDAN AND TURKEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A BIG EFFECT ON SULTAN AS HE DELIBERATES WHETHER OR NOT TO DIVERSIFY HIS PORTFOLIO. BLANDISHMENTS OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND ARMS MANUFACTURES MAY ALSO BE A FACTOR, AS WILL BE ANY MORE BAD PUBLICITY, THAT MAY COME SAUDI ARABIA'S WAY AS A RESULT OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HEARINGS. (BBC REPORTED ON AUGUST 2 THAT LOCKHEED HAD ADMITTED TO PAYING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO INCREASE SALES). TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, PRINCE FAHD STILL STANDS FIRM BY HIS AMERICAN CONNECTION, BUT THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO WOULD GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR EUROPEAN OPTIONS ARE BECOMING STRONGER.  
HORAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN COMMITMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN'S WORRIES ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF U.S. ARMS SUPPLY  
**TAGS:** MARR, SA, US, (SULTAN, PRINCE)  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006